

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S STEM CELL POLICY HAS FALLEN FAR SHORT OF ORIGINAL GOALS

When President Bush announced federal stem cell funding policy in August 2001, JDRF supported the Administration's decision. At the time, it was believed that there were at least 60 human embryonic stem cell lines in existence that researchers could access, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson was estimating that federal grants to study the cells would total \$100 million in the first year.

In the few years since then, however, it has become clear that the federal policy, while well-intentioned, has fallen far short of its goals. At present, only 22 lines are currently available to researchers, and an NIH official has admitted that only 23 lines will ever be available. In addition, the most federal funding granted for the research in any year so far has been about \$25 million.

STEM CELL LINES AVAILABLE FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

DATE	STEM CELLS PROMISED (POTENTIAL)	STEM CELL LINES AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS
President's Announcement (August 9, 2001)	60+	0
September 2003	78	11
January 2005	23 ¹	22 ²

NIH FUNDING APPLIED TO EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

DATE	FUNDING LEVEL PROMISED	ACTUAL
August 2001	\$100 million estimated ³	\$0
FY 2002	\$100 million plus	\$10.7 million ⁴
FY 2003	\$100 million plus	\$20.3 million ⁵
FY 2004	\$100 million plus	\$24.3 million ⁶

¹ "NIH: Few Stem Cell Colonies Likely Available for Research" Washington Post, March 3, 2004. The story quotes an "unpublished NIH analysis, circulating on Capitol Hill," attributing a statement to James Battey, M.D., chair of the NIH Stem Cell Task Force who admitted that the "best-case scenario" is that only 23 cell colonies will ever be available to U.S. researchers.

² NIH Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry (<http://stemcells.nih.gov/research/registry/>)

³ Budget projections by Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson.

⁴ NIH Budget Office, May 7, 2004. (Cited by the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress: Stem Cell Research, October 20, 2004)

⁵ Personal Communication from Science Policy and Planning Branch, NIDCD, NIH

⁶ Ibid